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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Chen
Serial No.: 09/746,467 476
Filed: December 21, 2000
Group Art Unit: 1711
Examiner: Piziali, Andrew T.
Title: COATED ARTICLE WITH POLYMERIC BASECOAT

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3/28/03
[Signature]

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 26, 2001. Claims 1-13 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 4-8 have been amended and new claims 9-13 have been added. Please amend the claims as follows:

AMENDMENT

1. (AMENDED) An article having on at least a portion of a surface a multi-layer coating having the appearance of nickel comprising:
a layer comprised of polymer; and
a layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride where said nitrogen content of said refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride is from about 6 to about 4 atomic percent, and said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride providing the appearance of a nickel color.

21

4. (AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

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5. (AMENDED) The article of claim 3 wherein a layer comprised of refractory metal oxide or refractory metal alloy oxide is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

6. (AMENDED) The article of claim 1 wherein a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

*on 2
cancel* 7. (AMENDED) The article of claim 3 wherein a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

8. (AMENDED) An article having on at least a portion of a surface a multi-layer coating having the appearance of nickel comprising:

a layer comprised of epoxy urethane; and

a layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride where said nitrogen content of said refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride is from about 6 to about 4 atomic percent.

Please add the following new claims:

9. (NEW) The article of claim 1 wherein a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.

*on 3
cancel* 10. (NEW) The article of claim 3 wherein a layer comprised of the reaction products of (i) refractory metal alloy, (ii) oxygen and (iii) nitrogen is on said layer comprised of refractory metal nitride or refractory metal alloy nitride.